State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #_____
HRI #_____
Trinomial_____
NRHP Status Code_____
Other Listings_____
Review Code_____ Reviewer_____ Date_____

 Resource name(s) or number(assigned by recorder) N-208

P1. Other Identifier: Underground Ballistic Range
***P2. Location:** ☒Not for Publication ☐Unrestricted ***a. County** Santa Clara
***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** Mountain View, Calif. **Date:** 1995
***c. Address** 660 Mark Avenue **City** Moffett Field **Zip** 94035
***e. Other Locational Data:**

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)

Building N-208 is an underground ballistic range. From the street level is a flight of metal stairs, which leads to the building's entrance underground. This staircase is articulated with metal handrails. Although this facility was inaccessible during the time of the survey, previous evaluations suggest that the building is composed of a series of reinforced concrete rooms, which are bunker-like in composition. It was initially constructed as a Supersonic Free-Flight Pressurized Range – a high explosive, shock-tube facility and was located underground for safety reasons. Above ground is a small one-story corrugated steel shed located north of Building N-209. This shed building has a concrete foundation, shed roof and a single two-panel steel door on the east façade. Vents and mechanical equipment are located on top of the roof. The building size is approximately 2,255 sq. ft. This building is officially classified by NASA as an abandoned building. Most of the machinery, formerly used for research, located in the interior has been stripped away and the interior remains largely vacant.

According to NASA personnel, the testing chamber ceiling exhibits evidence of water infiltration, and standing water and leaves have accumulated on the exterior. This building appears to be in fair condition with peeling paint.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (list attributes and codes) HP 39 – Other: Research and Developmental Facility

***P4. Resources Present:** ☒Building ☐Structure ☐Object ☐Site ☐District ☐Element of District ☐Other

P5a. Photo

P5b. Photo: (view and date)
View of entry (10/02/07)

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** 1951

***P7. Owner and Address:**
United States of America as represented by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

***P8. Recorded by:**
Page & Turnbull, Inc.
724 Pine Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

***P9. Date Recorded:** 10/19/07

***P10. Survey Type:**
Reconnaissance

***P11. Report Citation:** Architectural Resources Group, *Building Evaluations, NASA Ames Research Center* (July 27, 2001) 12.

***Attachments:** ☐None ☐Location Map ☐Sketch Map ☐Continuation Sheet ☒Building, Structure, and Object Record
☐Archaeological Record ☐District Record ☐Linear Feature Record ☐Milling Station Record ☐Rock Art Record
☐Artifact Record ☐Photograph Record ☐ Other (list)

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Primary #_____
HRI#_____

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code 6Z

*Resource Name or # N-208

B1. Historic name: Supersonic Free-Flight Pressurized Range
B2. Common name: Underground Ballistics Range
B3. Original Use: Ballistics range B4. Present use: Vacant
***B5. Architectural Style:** Utilitarian
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)
1955 – Date of Construction

***B7. Moved?** ☒No ☐Yes ☐Unknown **Date:**_____ **Original Location:**_____
***B8. Related Features:**
Significant architectural features include reinforced concrete walls and underground orientation/circulation.

B9a. Architect: National Advisory Committee for Aeromautics (NACA) Engineers b. Builder:
***B10. Significance: Theme** Post-War Science and Space Exploration **Area** NASA Ames Research Center
Period of Significance 1955 – 1957 **Property Type** Research Facility **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity)

Originally used as the Supersonic Free-Flight Pressurized Range, Building N-208 is an underground testing facility located below ground. This building is compromised of a series of interconnected concrete rooms and a long testing chamber that measures 100 ft x 6 ft. Designed by H. Julian Allen, this building addressed the problems of firing winged models from a gun with a cylindrical barrel. After launching the winged models inside the wind tunnel, the model's flight path was recorded on a shadowgraph, thus revealing the intricacies of hypersonic airflow around the model. These tests in Building N-208 and N-237 were crucial to understanding reentry and NASA vehicles that entered the atmosphere from outer space. Building N-208 contributed to aeronautical science, early space exploration, and the understanding of aeronautic flight paths; however in its current state the building does not retain sufficient integrity to convey its significant. The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, and materials. However, the building lacks integrity of workmanship and association, due to the loss of the original machinery. These two aspects of integrity are essential in conveying the building's historic significance. Although nationally significant research was conducted in this building, N-208 does not meet the criteria to be individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historic Resources, due to the loss of integrity.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) (HP39) – Research and Development Facility

***B12. References:**

- Architectural Resources Group, *Building Evaluations, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California* (July 27, 2001)
- Edwin Hartman, *Adventures in Research: A History of Ames Research Center, 1940 – 1965* (NASA SP-4302, 1970).
- Elizabeth A. Muenger, *Searching the Horizon: A History of Ames Research Center, 1940 – 1976* (NASA SP-4304, 1985).
- Glenn Bugos, *Atmosphere of Freedom: Sixty Years at the NASA Ames Research Center* (NASA SP-4314, 2000).
- Donald Baels and William R. Corliss, *The Wind Tunnels of NASA* (NASA SP-440, 1981).

B13. Remarks: In 2005, Page & Turnbull completed a reconnaissance-level survey of all properties at NASA Ames Research Center.

***B14. Evaluator:** Rich Sucre
Page & Turnbull, Inc.
724 Pine Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

***Date of Evaluation:** 10/19/2007

(This space reserved for official comments.)

Sketch Map